



North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

State of the LCC

Andrew Milliken

North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee Meeting
New Castle, New Hampshire November 17, 2010

State of the North Atlantic LCC

- History and Purpose of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
- Review the Last Year in the North Atlantic LCC
- Looking Forward to the Next Year in the North Atlantic LCC



“Like the resource it seeks to protect, wildlife conservation must be dynamic, changing as conditions change, seeking always to become more effective”

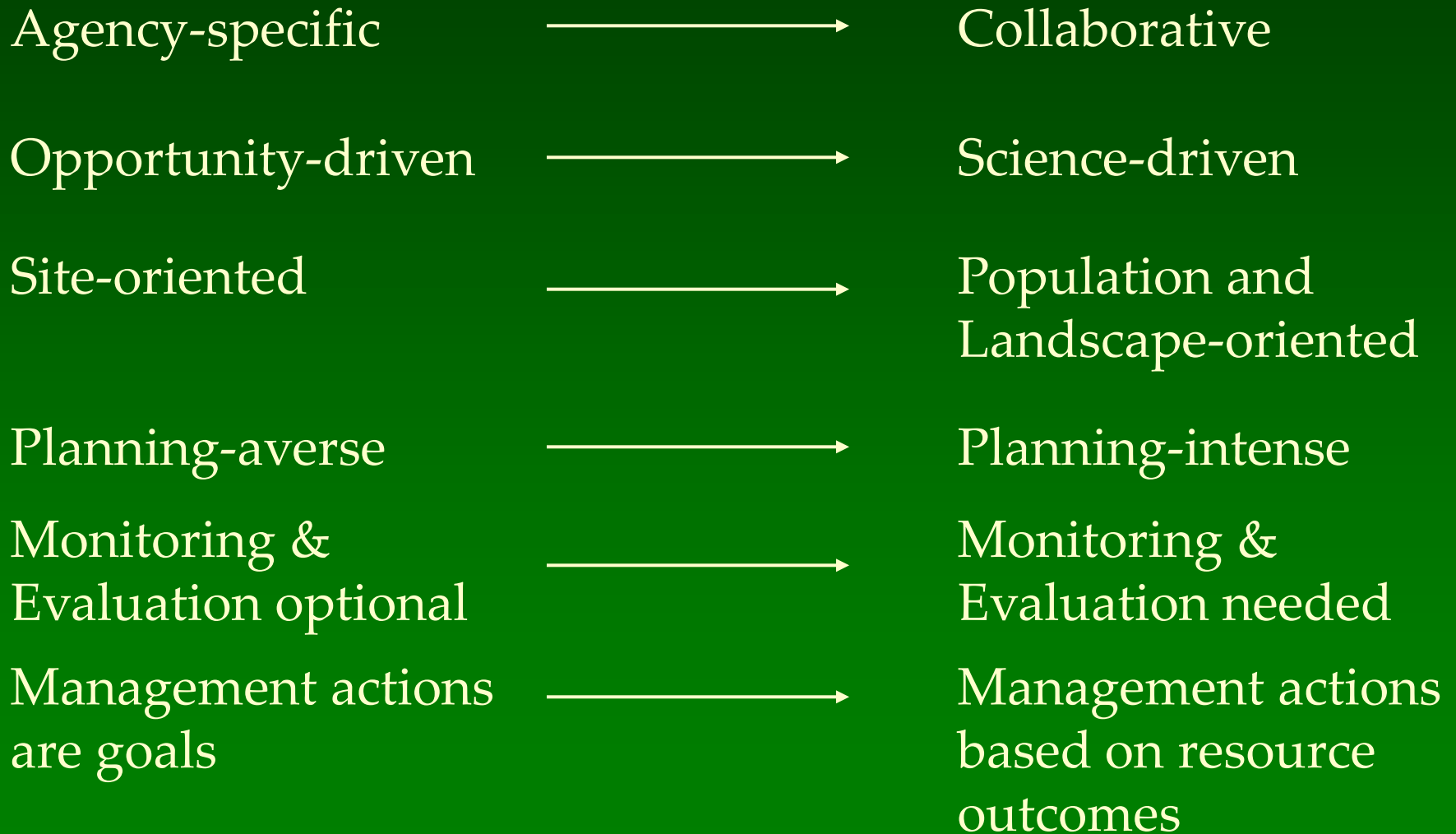
Rachel Carson



Conservation in Transition

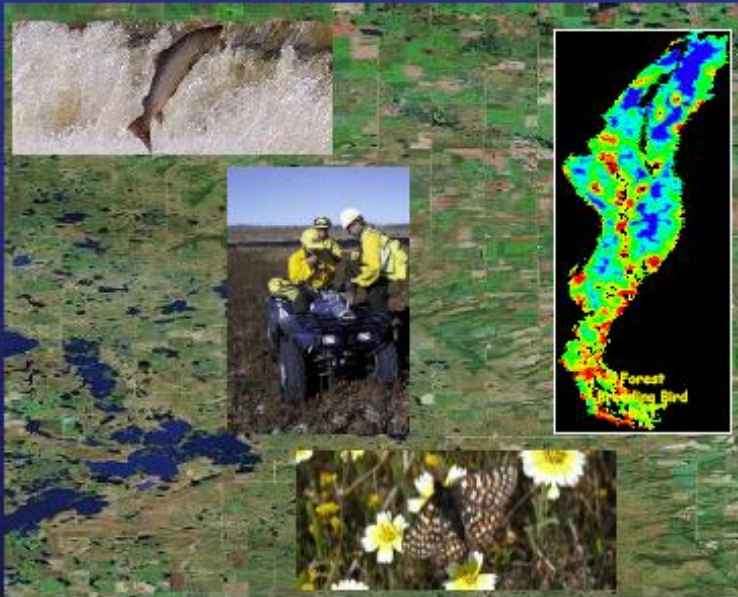
- Unprecedented scale, pace and complexity of resource management challenges
 - Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation
 - Invasive species
 - Contaminants
 - Impacts to hydrology
- Accelerated climate change is magnifying impacts on water and land resources, agriculture and biological diversity

Conservation in Transition



Strategic Habitat Conservation

*Final Report of the
National Ecological
Assessment Team*

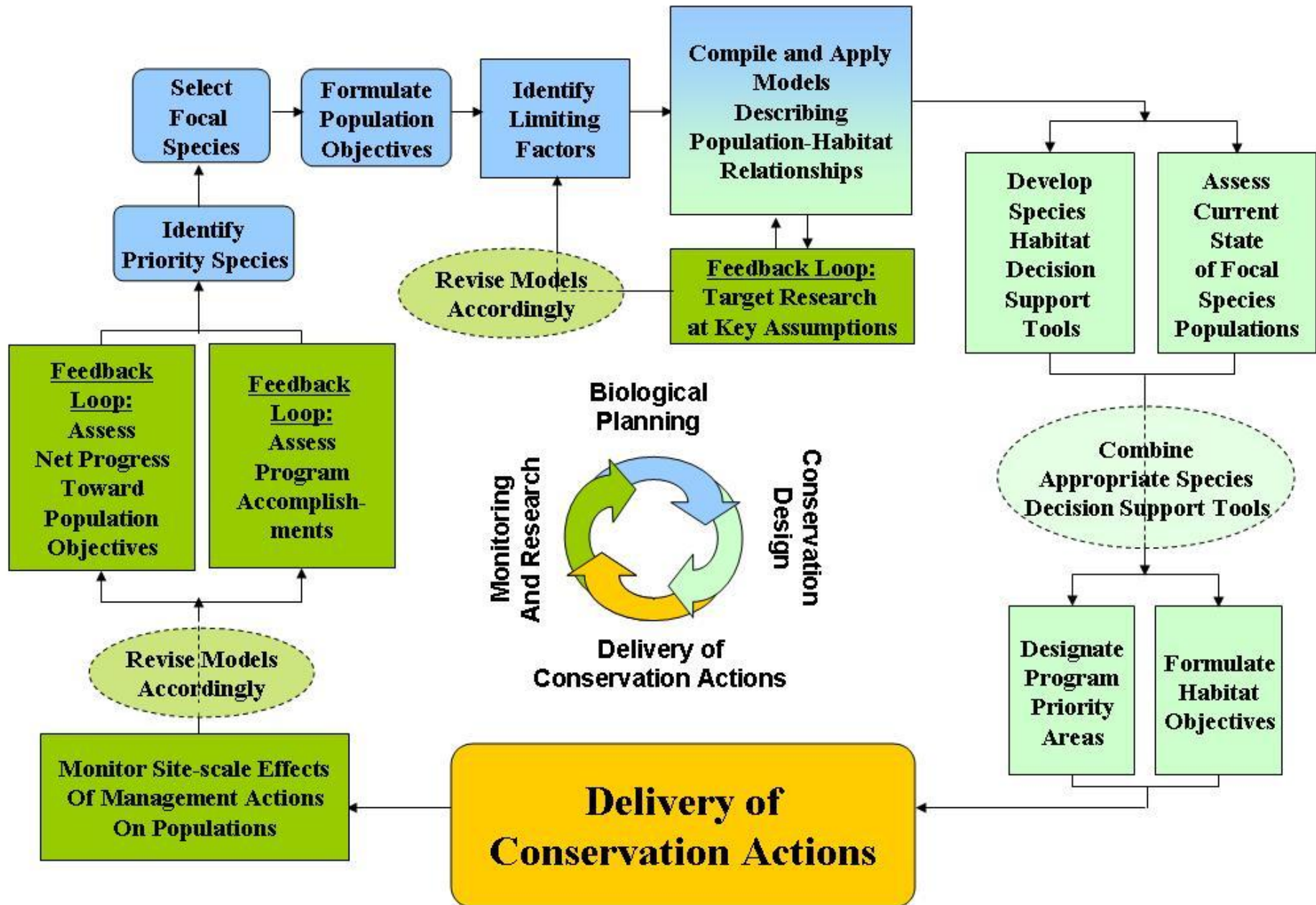


July 2006

Strategic Habitat Conservation

- **Science-based approach** to conservation focused on providing landscapes capable of sustaining trust species populations at objective levels.
- Programs and partners work together towards **common resource outcomes** for fish and wildlife and habitats
- Founded on an **adaptive, iterative process** of biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery, monitoring and research.

Conservation Framework





Northeast

REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS

” **The objectives of the Northeast RCN Grant Program is to address landscape-scale, regional wildlife conservation issues by combining resources, leveraging funds, and prioritizing conservation actions identified in State Wildlife Action Plans**

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Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Grant Program

State fish and wildlife agencies have developed State Wildlife Action Plans that assess the condition of each state's wildlife and habitats, identify the problems they face, and outline the actions that are needed to conserve them over the long term.

The wildlife action plans identify a variety of actions aimed at preventing wildlife from declining to the point of becoming endangered. By focusing on conserving the natural lands and clean waters that provide habitat for wildlife, the plans have important benefits for wildlife and people. Many of the conservation needs identified in the state wildlife action plans are best addressed at a landscape-scale – a scale that does not conform to state boundaries. In addition, many conservation actions can be developed or implemented in one area of the Northeast with the results applicable and of benefit to the entire region. By combining financial resources, the Northeast states have created an efficient and effective mechanism to address landscape scale or regionally applicable issues.

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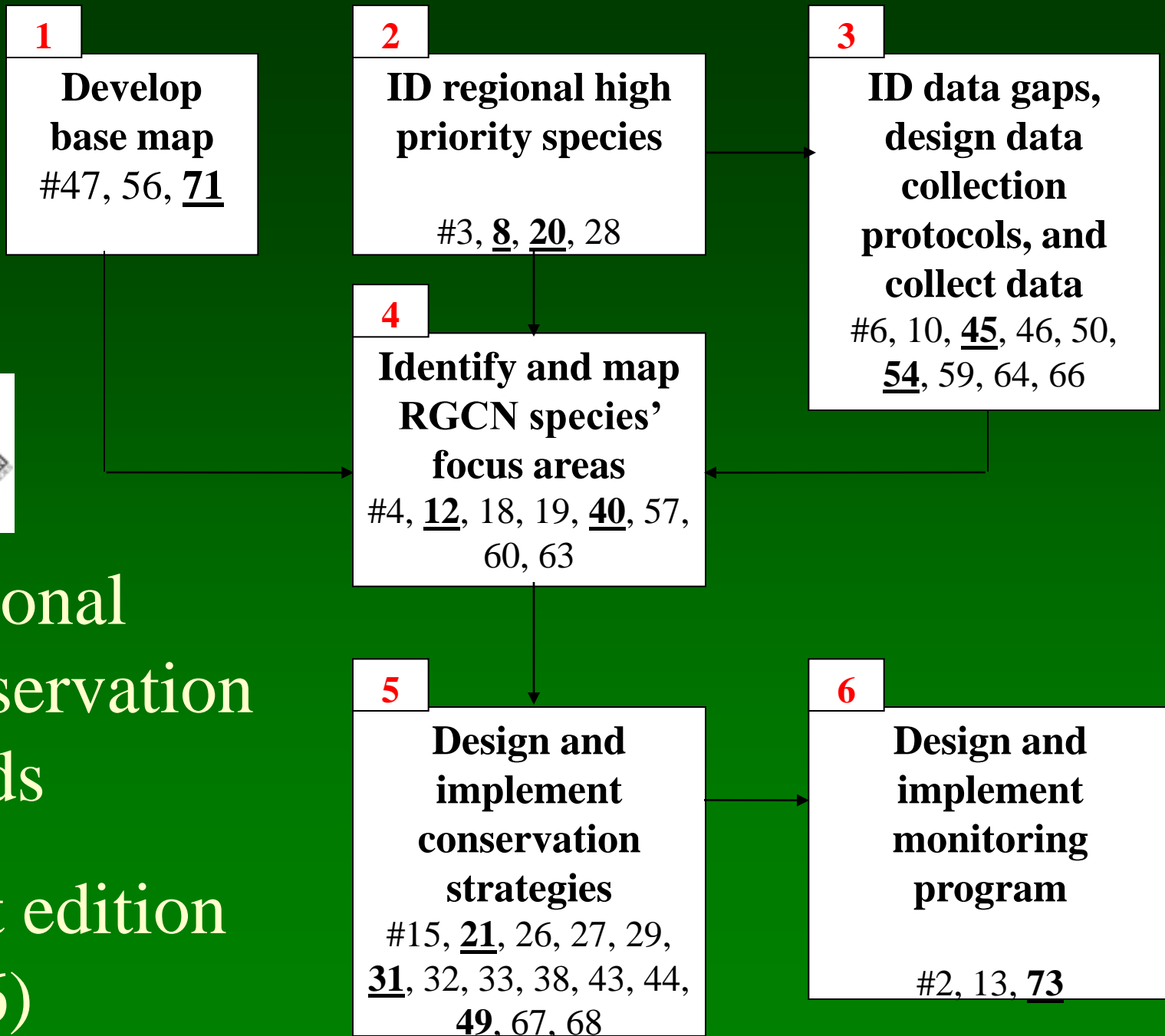
**NEAFWA Conference
Wildlife Management
Institute**

**Summary Report of 2007
Grant Cycle**

**Summary Report for 2008
Grant Cycle**



Regional Conservation Needs (first edition 2006)



Strategic Habitat Conservation



USGS
science for a changing world



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conservation in Transition

Leading Change



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Rising to the Urgent Challenge

Strategic Plan for Responding to Accelerating Climate Change





USFWS Climate Change Strategic Plan

“Establish *landscape conservation cooperatives* that enable members of the conservation community to plan, design and deliver conservation in ways that integrate local, state, tribal, regional, national and international efforts and resources....”



DOI Secretarial Order on Climate Change

“A network of *Landscape Conservation Cooperatives* will engage DOI and federal agencies, states, *tribal* and local governments and the public to craft practical, landscape-level strategies for managing climate change impacts...”

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

- **With a vision of sustainable landscapes, LCC's will:**
 - facilitate partnerships for strategic conservation at landscape scales
 - identify shared conservation goals and science needs
 - provide scientific and technical expertise to support landscape scale conservation efforts
 - provide decision support tools for managers
 - be effective in informing conservation delivery actions

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

- LCC's will
 - provide science support for conservation activities that will address major threats (including climate change) to conservation of species and habitats
 - maximize the use and efficiency of resources
 - draw upon, and augment, the existing science capacities of partners and partnerships
 - be part of a seamless national network

Situation Analysis

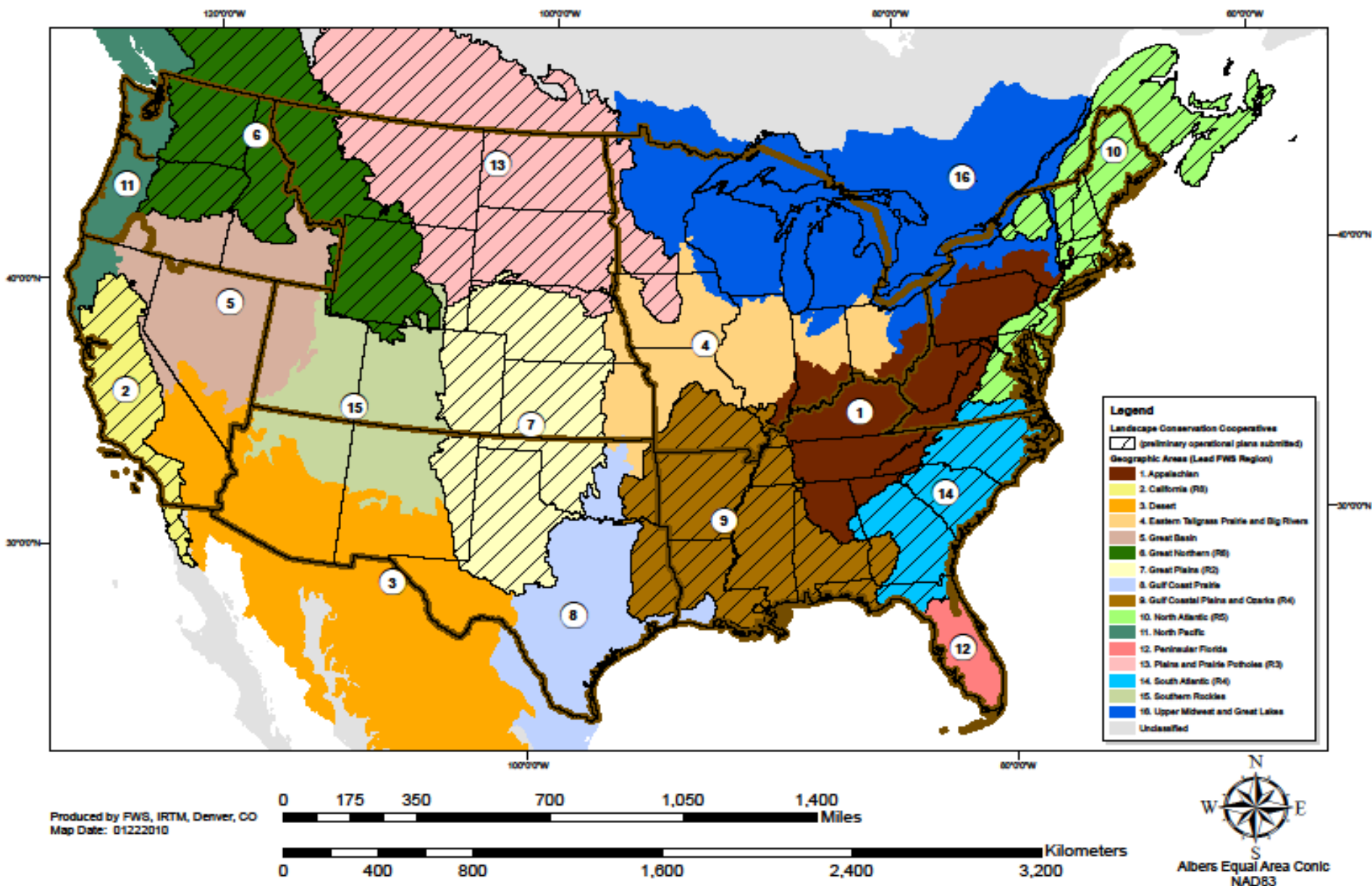
America's natural systems and landscapes are impacted by increasing land use pressures and widespread resource threats amplified by a rapidly changing climate. These changes are occurring at an unprecedented pace and scale. By leveraging resources and strategically targeting science to inform conservation decisions and actions, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are a network of partnerships working in unison to ensure the sustainability of America's land, water, wildlife and cultural resources.



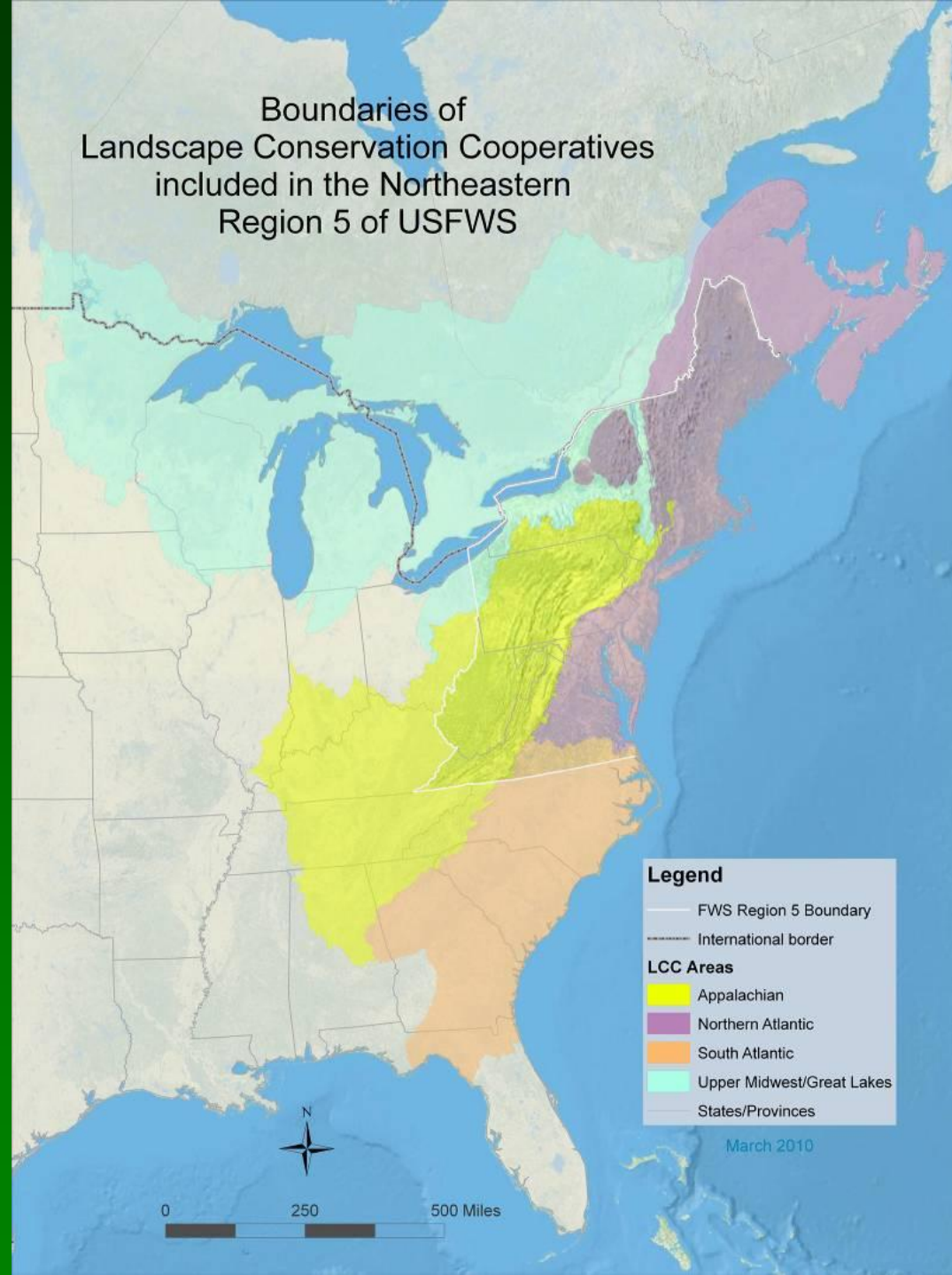


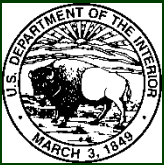
U.S. Department of the Interior

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives - Interim Geographic Framework



Northeast Region LCCs





Department of the Interior Support



Nationally - \$20M available to establish 8 LCCs

Regionally - \$2.2M for North Atlantic LCC

\$1.1M planning, \$920k science, \$133k admn.



Nationally - \$5M to support 8 LCCs

Regionally - \$385k, 2 positions for the NALCC

National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center
and 8 Regional Climate Science Centers

➤ Northeast Regional Climate Science Center in FY 2012



Liaison position to LCC at North Atlantic Coast
CESU at URI (NER) Urban Ecologist (NCR)

What happened in FY 2010?

- NALCC Scoping Meeting-held Nov. 20, 2009



Northeast LCCs FY 10 Implementation Actions

- North Atlantic LCC Plan - Dec. 11, 2009
- North Atlantic LCC Structure & Governance
- Staff hired
 - ARD Science Applications - *Ken Elowe*
 - Public Affairs Specialist – *Megan Nagel*
 - North Atlantic LCC Coord. – *Andrew Milliken*
 - Appalachian LCC Coordinator – *Jean Brennan*
- U.S. EPA Liaison in place – *Tai Ming Chang*
- Initial conservation science projects selected supporting partner-identified science needs
- Interim Steering Committee initiated

North Atlantic LCC Governance

- Steering Committee
 - 12 States + D.C.
 - Federal Agencies (USFWS, USGS, NPS, USFS, NOAA, EPA, BOEMRE)
 - Tribes (USET)
 - NGOs (Manomet, TNC, NWF, NFWF, TPL, WMI)
 - Canadian Partners (CWS)
 - DOI Climate Science Center
 - Neighboring LCCs
- Work Groups
- Staff

North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

NALCC FY 2010 Adaptive Science Projects

Project	Funding
<i>Regional species & habitat vulnerability assessments</i>	\$100k
<i>Designing sustainable landscapes</i>	\$400k
<i>Forecasting changes in stream flow, temp., and brook trout populations as a result of climate change</i>	\$420k
<i>Forecast effects of sea level rise on habitat of piping plovers & identify responsive conservation strategies</i>	\$204k
<i>Evaluating the Representative Species Approach</i>	\$120k
<i>Conservation Science Synthesis and Projects TBD</i>	\$260k
<i>Using dynamic linear at multiple temporal scales (national LCC funds)</i>	\$200k
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$1.7M

North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

North Atlantic LCC Next Steps:

1. Hold NALCC partner calls and meetings summer/fall, 2010 – establish standing Steering Committee
2. Implement FY 2010 projects
3. Assess science needs and ongoing work of partners and partnerships to guide decisions on future staff and projects
4. Based on this input, support priority projects and hire staff to address greatest needs supporting a conservation framework (conservation adaptation strategy)

Conservation Adaptation Strategy: Building On The Foundation

SCIENCE

CONSERVATION

Species, Habitats, Landscapes, Systems

Past Condition

Current Condition

Future Conditions
(Threats)

Desired Condition

Conservation Strategy

Protection

Management Plan

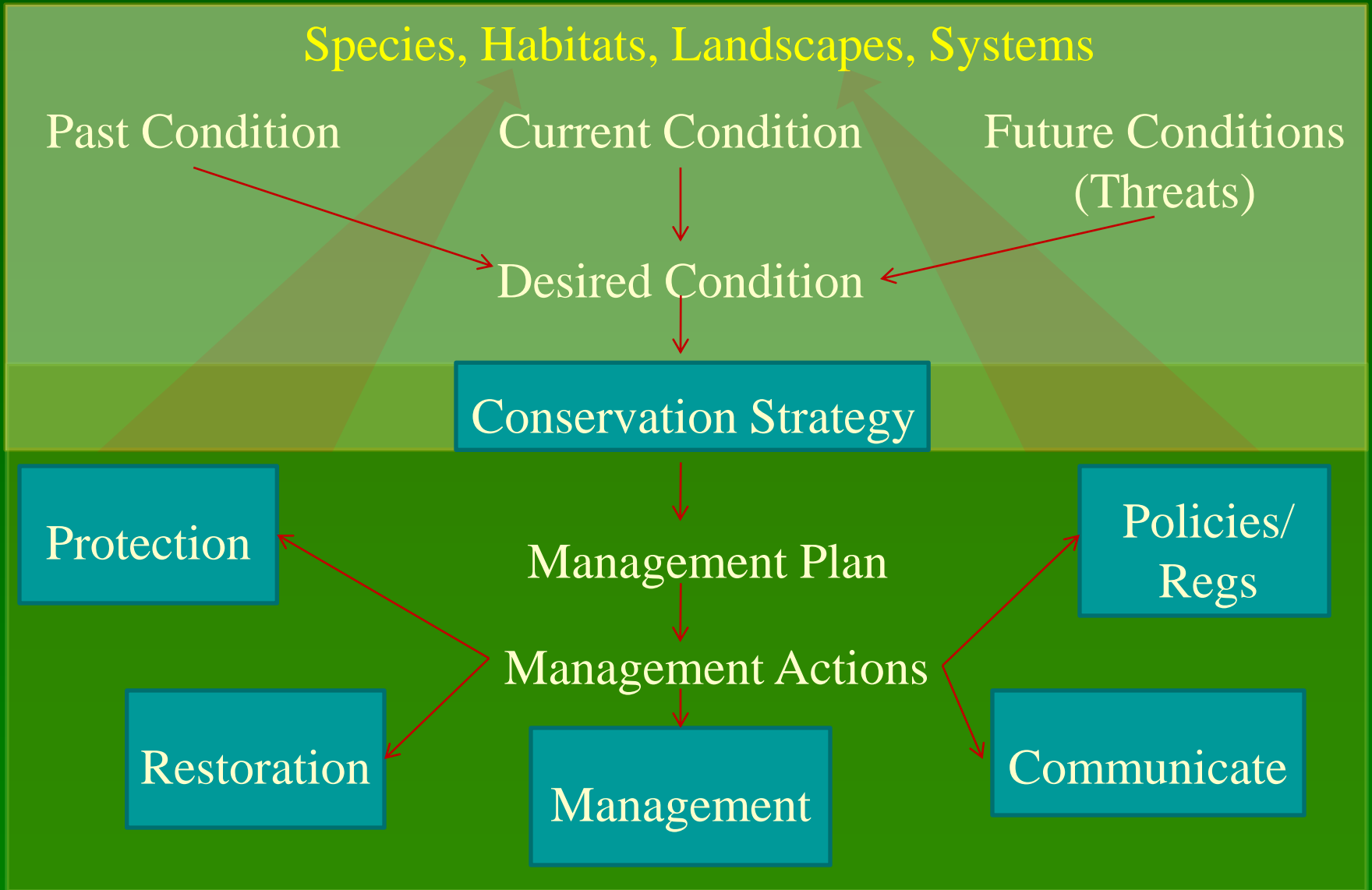
Policies/
Regs

Management Actions

Restoration

Management

Communicate



Situation Analysis - Northeast Region

The Northeast Region's natural systems and landscapes are impacted by increasing land use pressures and widespread resource threats amplified by a rapidly changing climate. In the Northeast Region, several existing partnerships already leverage resources and strategically target science to inform conservation decisions and actions. Landscape Conservation Cooperatives should complement, strengthen, and help this network of partnerships work in unison to ensure the sustainability of the Northeast Region's land, water, wildlife and cultural resources.



Guidance from Steering Committee

- Vision and Mission
- Technical community that builds on existing partnerships
- Assessment of science needs and synthesis of completed and ongoing work
- Process for selecting projects
- Scope of involvement in marine zone
- Recommendation on boundary changes
- Communications tools/outreach needs
- Steering committee governance and leadership



Thank You

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/science/lcc.htm>

<http://www.fws.gov/science/shc/lcc.html>

<http://www.northatlanticlcc.org>